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Vår ref:  
22/00707-3

Deres ref:

Dato:  
18.03.2022

## To coordinators of projects with Russian partners,

Due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the [Norwegian government has suspended research and education cooperation with Russia](#). The government's decision implies that institutional agreements with Russian partner institutions must be put on hold. Simultaneously, the government would like to see continued cooperation between individual researchers in Norway and Russia. The Norwegian institutions hosting cooperation projects with Russia are responsible for making the distinction between "institutional cooperation" and "cooperation between researchers" on a case-to-case basis.

The government's decision will have consequences for Norwegian-Russian project cooperation in higher education with funding from the Norwegian directorate for higher education and skills. HK-dir's programmes are designed to foster international partnerships between higher education institutions. This implies cooperation between individual researchers and students, but to be successful and sustainable, such cooperation most often requires involvement of administrative and leadership structures.

Following this, HK-dir has decided that Russian partners cannot be included in the ongoing UTFORSK call for applications with deadline April 20, 2022. The forthcoming call for applications of bilateral cooperation with Russia in higher education (UTFORSK Russland) is also cancelled. Please see [Fryser utdanningssamarbeid med Russland](#) for more information.

For ongoing projects, HK-dir has adopted the following policy:

- HK-dir will not stop ongoing projects with Russian partners.
- The Institution in Norway (IiN) must consider to what extent any of the planned project activities can be continued. The decision should be made on the relevant management level.
- The Institution in Norway must not transfer any project funding to partner institutions in Russia.
- Russian researchers and students at all levels who are currently in Norway as part of the project cooperation may continue their stay as planned, and project funding can be used to cover their expenses.
- Project coordinators must send information about changes to the project plan and budget to HK-dir for approval.

Any questions about the implementation of ongoing projects should be sent to the relevant programme manager at HK-dir.

You may also contact Herdis Kolle ([herdis.kolle@hkdir.no](mailto:herdis.kolle@hkdir.no)) if you have any other issues of concern relating to this situation, which you think it is important that HK-dir is aware of.

Med vennlig hilsen  
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*Dokumentet er elektronisk signert og har derfor ikke håndskrevne signaturer.*